

Amendments to the Claims:

This replacement listing of claims will replace the listing of claims submitted with the Preliminary Amendment filed July 13, 2009:

Replacement Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A stopper comprising a cork substrate and a barrier layer, ~~which~~ said barrier layer being a composite layer comprising at least one reactive hot melt polyurethane adhesive sub-layer and at least one sub-layer having lower oxygen permeability than the reactive hot melt adhesive, wherein at least one of said reactive hot melt polyurethane adhesive sub-layers being located against the cork substrate and wherein said barrier layer has a thickness of from about 0.05 to about 100 microns.
2. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1 wherein the barrier layer has a permeability to oxygen of less than about $200 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$.
3. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1 wherein the barrier layer has a permeability to oxygen of less than about $50 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$.
4. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1 wherein the barrier layer has a permeability to oxygen of less than about $30 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$.
5. (Currently amended) A stopper according to Claim 1 wherein the barrier layer has a permeability to oxygen of ~~less than~~ about $0 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$.
6. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1 wherein the barrier layer has a thickness of from about 0.075 to about 50 microns.

7. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1, wherein the barrier layer has a thickness of from about 0.1 to about 30 microns.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1, wherein the barrier layer includes one or more additives.
11. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 10 wherein the one or more additive is selected from metal oxides finely divided silicon, powdered PTFE and clays.
12. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1, wherein the stopper is cylindrical in shape and has two faces located at the ends of the cylinder.
13. (canceled)
14. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 12 wherein at least one face is rounded or bevelled.
15. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 12 wherein the barrier layer is located at either or both of the faces.
16. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 12, wherein the barrier layer is located within the body of the stopper and substantially parallel to at least one of the faces of the stopper.
17. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1, wherein the barrier layer extends across the entire face or cross-section of the stopper such that a continuous barrier is provided.

18. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1, wherein the barrier layer extends across only a portion of the face or cross-section.
19. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1, wherein the barrier layer extends beyond the face or cross-section of the stopper to form a gasket.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1 wherein the lower oxygen permeability sub-layer is an ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer.
24. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1, wherein the stopper is a stopper for a bottle.
25. (Original) A stopper according to Claim 24 wherein the bottle is a wine bottle.
26. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 24 wherein the stopper is made of cork or plastics material.
27. (Previously presented) A stopper according to Claim 1, wherein the barrier layer will additionally provide a barrier to microbiological contaminants.
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Canceled)
31. (Canceled)
32. (Canceled)

- 33. (Canceled)
- 34. (Canceled)
- 35. (Canceled)
- 36. (Canceled)
- 37. (Canceled)
- 38. (Canceled)
- 39. (Canceled)
- 40. (Previously presented) A method of applying a barrier layer to a cork stopper comprising applying a sub-layer of a reactive hot melt polyurethane adhesive and a sub-layer having lower oxygen permeability than the reactive hot melt adhesive to the stopper, and allowing the reactive hot melt polyurethane adhesive to cool, such that bonding occurs between the stopper and the barrier layer.
- 41. (Original) A method according to Claim 40 wherein the barrier layer having been applied to the stopper is held in tension and the stopper is pushed into a cup.